

PATENT  
450100-04705REMARKS

This amendment is being filed after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance; and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.312. It is respectfully submitted, the amendment presented herein does not change the scope of claim 7.

The amendment proposed herein to claim 7 merely clarifies the claim and obviates any ambiguity that might have been present prior to this amendment. For example, prior to this amendment, the final paragraph of claim 7 recited, "said lens when in said pop-up position..." however, there is no clear antecedent basis in the claim for the expression "said pop-up position." Rather, the claim refers to a "pop-up open position," and the final paragraph of claim 7 is amended to be consistent with this recitation, thus providing the proper antecedent basis.

As another example, prior to this amendment, the final paragraph of claim 7 recited, "said lens ... is disposed at an angle when said camera-body portion is held in a forward leaning posture which is less than 90° between a light axis of said lens and a direction parallel to a surface of said camera body...". It is not clear from this recitation whether it is the lens that is disposed at less than 90° or if the camera-body portion is held at less than 90°. The intent of this recitation is to point out that the lens is at an angle; and the proposed amendment to claim 7 clarifies this by stating that the "light axis of said lens is inclined with respect to a direction parallel to a surface of said camera body...". Although the limitation of 90° is omitted from the proposed amendment to claim 7, it is clear from the prior art that has been considered during the prosecution of this present application that 90° is not the critical feature. Rather, what is important is the limitation that the lens is at an angle to the camera body portion, as shown in Fig. 2. The proposed amendment to claim 7 recites this feature by stating that the light axis of

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the lens "is inclined with respect to a direction parallel to a surface of said camera body." Thus, the amendment herein to claim 7 eliminates the ambiguity that otherwise was present in claim 7 heretofore. Nevertheless, amended claim 7, as proposed herein, retains the feature that this angle between the lens and the camera body is effected when "said camera body portion is held by the user in a forward leaning posture." Claim 7, as amended herein, makes it clear that it is the user that holds the camera body portion in the forward leaning posture. It is believed that this was clearly inferred from a logical reading of claim 7 prior to this amendment.

As yet another example, claim 7, prior to this amendment, stated that the surface of the camera body that forms the angle with the lens is the surface on which the user's fingers are placed "when the user holds said camera body for taking a picture." However, there is insufficient antecedent basis for reciting that the user "holds said camera body for taking a picture." Rather, the claim calls for a "camera body portion" and not simply a camera body. Claim 7 is amended herein to conform with the antecedent recitation of "camera body portion" by stating that the surface of the camera body with which the lens is inclined (i.e. angled) is the surface on which the user's fingers are placed "when the user holds said camera body portion for taking a picture."

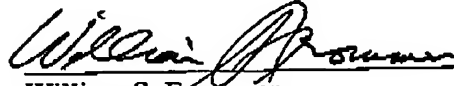
In view of the foregoing explanation, it is clear that the amendment to claim 7, as presented herein, does not change the scope of the claim and, moreover, clarifies the claim by removing possible ambiguities that might have been introduced in the last amendment filed March 1, 2005. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully solicited.

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Please charge the cost occasioned by this Amendment to our Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,  
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